

FRESHWATER CHRONIC TOXICITY TEST PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOL

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The permittee shall conduct acceptable chronic (and modified acute) toxicity tests on three samples collected during the test period. The following tests shall be performed in accordance with the appropriate test protocols described below:

! Daphnid (Ceriodaphnia dubia) Survival and Reproduction Test.

! Fathead Minnow (Pimephales promelas) Larval Growth and Survival Test.

Chronic and acute toxicity data shall be reported as outlined in Section VIII. The chronic fathead minnow and daphnid tests can be used to calculate an LC50 at the end of 48 hours of exposure when both an acute (LC50) and a chronic (C-NOEC) test is specified in the permit.

II. METHODS

Methods to follow are those recommended by EPA in:

Lewis, P.A. et al. Short Term Methods For Estimating The Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Water to Freshwater Organisms, Third Edition. Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati, OH. July 1994, EPA/600/4-91/002.

Any exceptions are stated herein.

III. SAMPLE COLLECTION

For each sampling event, three discharge samples shall be collected. Fresh samples are necessary for Days 1, 3, and 5 (see Section V. for holding times). The initial sample is used to start the test on Day 1, and for test solution renewal on Day 2. The second sample is collected for use at the start of Day 3, and for renewal on Day 4. The third sample is used for renewal on Days 5, 6, and 7 (or until termination for the Ceriodaphnia dubia test). The initial (Day 1) sample will be analyzed chemically (see Section VI). Day 3 and 5 samples will be held until test

completion. If either the Day 3 or 5 renewal sample is of sufficient potency to cause lethality to 50 percent or more test organisms in any of the dilutions for either species, then a chemical analysis shall be performed on the appropriate sample(s) as well.

Aliquots shall be split from the samples, containerized and preserved (as per 40 CFR Part 136) for chemical and physical analyses. The remaining samples shall be measured for total residual chlorine and dechlorinated (if detected) in the laboratory using sodium thiosulfate for subsequent toxicity testing. (Note that EPA approved test methods require that samples collected for metals analyses be preserved immediately after collection.) Grab samples must be used for pH, temperature, and total residual chlorine (as per 40 CFR Part 122.21).

Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater also describes dechlorination of samples (APHA, 1992). Dechlorination can be achieved using a ratio of 6.7 mg/L anhydrous sodium thiosulfate to reduce 1 mg/L chlorine. A thiosulfate control (maximum amount of thiosulfate in lab control or receiving water) should also be run.

All samples held overnight shall be refrigerated at 4°C.

IV. DILUTION WATER

Grab samples of dilution water used for chronic toxicity testing shall be collected from the receiving water at a point upstream of the discharge free from toxicity or other sources of contamination. Avoid collecting near areas of obvious road or agricultural runoff, storm sewers or other point source discharges. An additional control (0% effluent) of a standard laboratory water of known quality shall also be tested.

If the receiving water diluent is found to be, or suspected to be toxic or unreliable, an alternate standard dilution water of known quality with a hardness, pH, conductivity, alkalinity, organic carbon, and total suspended solids similar to that of the receiving water may be substituted **AFTER RECEIVING WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE PERMIT ISSUING AGENCY(S)**. Written requests for use of an alternate dilution water should be mailed with supporting documentation to the following address:

Director
Office of Ecosystem Protection
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-New England
JFK Federal Building (CAA)
Boston, MA 02203

It may prove beneficial to have the dilution water source screened for suitability prior to toxicity testing. EPA strongly urges that screening be done prior to set up of a full definitive toxicity test any time there is question about the dilution water's ability to support acceptable performance as outlined in the 'test acceptability' section of the protocol. See Section 7 of EPA/600/4-89/001 for further information.

V. TEST CONDITIONS AND TEST ACCEPTABILITY CRITERIA

EPA New England requires that fathead minnow tests be performed using four (not three) replicates of each control and effluent concentration because the non-parametric statistical tests cannot be used with data from only three replicates. Also, if a reference toxicant test was being performed concurrently with an effluent or receiving water test and fails, both tests must be repeated.

The following tables summarize the accepted daphnid and fathead minnow toxicity test conditions and test acceptability criteria:

EPA NEW ENGLAND RECOMMENDED EFFLUENT TOXICITY TEST CONDITIONS FOR THE DAPHNID, CERIODAPHNIA DUBIA, SURVIVAL AND REPRODUCTION TEST¹

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| 1. Test type: | Static, renewal |
| 2. Temperature (°C): | 25 ± 1°C |
| 3. Light quality: laboratory illumination | Ambient |
| 4. Photoperiod: | 16 hr. light, 8 hr. dark |
| 5. Test chamber size: | 30 mL |
| 6. Test solution volume: | 15 mL |
| 7. Renewal of test solutions: | Daily using most recently collected sample |
| 8. Age of test organisms: | Less than 24 hr.; and all released within an 8 hr. period of each other. |

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| 9. Number of neonates per test chamber: | 1 |
| 10. Number of replicate test chambers per treatment: | 10 |
| 11. Number of neonates per test concentration: | 10 |
| 12. Feeding regime: | Feed 0.1 ml each of YCT and concentrated algal suspension per exposure chamber daily. |
| 13. Aeration: | None |
| 14. Dilution water: ² | Receiving water, other surface water, synthetic soft water adjusted to the hardness and alkalinity of the receiving water (prepared using either Millipore Milli-Q ^R or equivalent deionized water and reagent grade chemicals according to EPA chronic toxicity test manual) or deionized water combined with mineral water to appropriate hardness. |
| 15. Effluent concentrations: ³ | 5 effluent concentrations and a control. An additional dilution at the permitted effluent concentration (% effluent) is required if it is not included in the dilution series. |
| 16. Dilution factor: | ≥ 0.5 |
| 17. Test duration: | Until 60% of control females have three broods (generally 7 days and a maximum of 8 days). |

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| 18. End points: | Survival and reproduction |
| 19. Test acceptability: | 80% or greater survival and an average of 15 or more young/surviving female in the control solutions. At least 60% of surviving females in controls must produce three broods. |
| 20. Sampling requirements: | For on-site tests, samples are collected daily and used within 24 hr. of the time they are removed from the sampling device. For off-site tests a minimum of three samples are collected (i.e. days 1, 3, 5) and used for renewal (see Sec. III). Off-site tests samples must be first used within 36 hours of collection. |
| 21. Sample volume required: | Minimum 1 liter/day |
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Footnotes:

1. Adapted from EPA/600/4-91/002.
2. Standard dilution water must have hardness requirements to generally reflect characteristics of the receiving water.
3. When receiving water is used for dilution, an additional control made up of standard laboratory dilution water (0% effluent) is required.

**EPA NEW ENGLAND RECOMMENDED EFFLUENT TEST CONDITIONS FOR THE
FATHEAD MINNOW (PIMEPHALES PROMELAS) LARVAL SURVIVAL
AND GROWTH TEST¹**

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| 1. Test type: | Static, renewal |
| 2. Temperature (°C): | 25 ± 1°C |
| 3. Light quality: | Ambient laboratory illumination |
| 4. Photoperiod: | 16 hr. light, 8 hr. dark |
| 5. Test chamber size: | 500 mL minimum |
| 6. Test solution volume: | Minimum 250 mL/replicate |
| 7. Renewal of test concentrations: | Daily using most recently collected sample. |
| 8. Age of test organisms: | Newly hatched larvae less than 24 hr. old |
| 9. No. larvae/test chamber and control: | 15 (minimum of 10) |
| 10. No. of replicate chambers/concentration: | 4 |
| 11. No. of larvae/concentration: | 60 (minimum of 40) |
| 12. Feeding regime: | Feed 0.1 g newly hatched, distilled water-rinsed <u>Artemia</u> nauplii at least 3 times daily at 4 hr. intervals or, as a minimum, 0.15 g twice daily, 6 hrs. between feedings (at the beginning of the work day prior to renewal, and at the end of the work day following renewal). Sufficient larvae are added to provide an excess. Larvae fish are not fed during the final 12 hr. of the test. |

13. Cleaning: Siphon daily, immediately before test solution renewal.
14. Aeration: None, unless dissolved oxygen (D.O.) concentration falls below 4.0 mg/L. Rate should be less than 100 bubbles/min.

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| 15. Dilution water: ² | Receiving water, other surface water, synthetic soft water adjusted to the hardness and alkalinity of the receiving water (prepared using either Millipore Milli-Q ^R or equivalent deionized and reagent grade chemicals according to EPA chronic toxicity test manual) or deionized water combined with mineral water to appropriate hardness. |
| 16. Effluent concentrations: ³ | 5 and a control. An additional dilution at the permitted effluent concentration (% effluent) is required if it is not included in the dilution series. |
| 17. Dilution factor: | ≥ 0.5 |
| 18. Test duration: | 7 days |
| 19. End points: | Survival and growth (weight) |
| 20. Test acceptability: | 80% or greater survival in controls: average dry weight per control larvae equals or exceeds 0.25 mg. |
| 21. Sampling requirements: | For on-site tests samples are collected and used within 24 hours of the time they are removed from the sampling device. For off-site tests a minimum of three samples are collected (i.e. days 1, 3, 5) and used for renewal (see Sec.IV). Off-site tests samples must be first used within 36 hours of collection. |
| 22. Sample volume required: | Minimum 2.5 liters/day |

Footnotes:

1. Adapted from EPA/600/4-91/002.
2. Standard dilution water must have hardness requirements to generally reflect characteristics of the receiving water.
3. When receiving water is used for dilution, an additional control made up of standard laboratory or culture water (0% effluent) is required.

VI. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

As part of each daily renewal procedure, pH, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, and temperature must be measured at the beginning and end of each 24-hour period in each dilution and the controls. It is also recommended that total alkalinity and total hardness be measured in the control and highest effluent concentration on the Day 1, 3, and 5 samples. The following chemical analyses shall be performed for each sampling event.

| <u>Parameter</u> | <u>Minimum Quantification</u> | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| | <u>Effluent</u> | <u>Diluent</u> | <u>Level (mg/l)</u> |
| Hardness ^{*1} | x | x | 0.5 |
| Alkalinity | x | x | 2.0 |
| pH | x | x | -- |
| Specific Conductance | x | x | -- |
| Total Solids and Suspended Solids | x | x | -- |
| Ammonia | x | x | 0.1 |
| Total Organic Carbon | x | x | 0.5 |
| Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) ^{*2} | x | x | 0.05 |
| Dissolved Oxygen | x | x | 1.0 |
| <u>Total Metals</u> | | | |
| Cd | x | | 0.001 |
| Cr | x | | 0.005 |
| Pb | x | x | 0.005 |
| Cu | x | x | 0.0025 |
| Zn | x | x | 0.0025 |
| Ni | x | x | 0.004 |
| Al | x | x | 0.02 |
| Mg, Ca | x | x | 0.05 |

Superscripts:

*1 Method 2340 B (hardness by calculation) from APHA (1992) Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater. 18th Edition.

*2 Total Residual Chlorine

Either of the following methods from the 18th Edition of the APHA Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater must be used for these analyses:

-Method 4500-CL E Low Level Amperometric Titration (the preferred method);

-Method 4500-CL G DPD Colorimetric Method.

or use USEPA Manual of Methods Analysis of Water and Wastes, Method 330.5.

VII. TOXICITY TEST DATA ANALYSIS

LC50 Median Lethal Concentration (Determined at 48 Hours)

Methods of Estimation:

- ! Probit Method
- ! Spearman-Kärber
- ! Trimmed Spearman-Kärber
- ! Graphical

Reference the flow chart on page 84 or page 172 of EPA 600/4-91/002 for the appropriate method to use on a given data set.

Chronic No Observed Effects Concentration (C-NOEC)

Methods of Estimation:

- ! Dunnett's Procedure
- ! Bonferroni's T-Test
- ! Steel's Many-One Rank Test
- ! Wilcoxin Rank Sum Test

Reference the flow charts on pages 50, 83, 96, 172, and 176 of EPA 600/4-91/002 for the appropriate method to use on a given data set.

In the case of two tested concentrations causing adverse effects but an intermediate concentration not causing a statistically significant effect, report the C-NOEC as the lowest concentration where there is no observable effect. The definition of NOEC in the EPA Technical Support Document only applies to linear dose-response data.

VIII. TOXICITY TEST REPORTING

A report of results will include the following:

- ! Description of sample collection procedures, site description;
- ! Names of individuals collecting and transporting samples, times and dates of sample collection and analysis on chain-of-custody; and
- ! General description of tests: age of test organisms, origin, dates and results of standard toxicant tests; light and temperature regime; other information on test conditions if different than procedures recommended. Reference toxicant test data should be included.
- ! All chemical/physical data generated. (Include minimum detection levels and minimum quantification levels.)
- ! Raw data and bench sheets.
- ! Provide a description of dechlorination procedures (as applicable).

! Any other observations or test conditions affecting test outcome.